

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a new rule to complement a fishery management plan governing American lobster management in Atlantic Ocean waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**July 7, 2014 to July 29, 2014**

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing the National Marine Fisheries Service's proposed rules to complement the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American lobster to determine whether the measures would be consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water, and other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

U.S. Department of Commerce: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: National Marine Fisheries Service.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is proposing a rule to implement broodstock measures in Lobster Conservation Management Areas 3, 4, and 5, and trap allocation reductions in Areas 2 and 3. These measures are to complement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American lobster, pursuant to requirements of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Title 16, U.S. Code, sections 5101 *et seq.*; Part 50, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 697). The purpose of the proposed action is to manage the American lobster fishery in a manner that maximizes resource sustainability, recognizing that compatibility between state and federal measures is crucial to the overall success of American lobster management. NMFS is responding to recently approved state management measures to address poor stock conditions and persistent recruitment failure of the Southern New England lobster stock.

NMFS has determined that the proposed measures are consistent, the maximum extent practicable, with the Fisheries Management enforceable policy of Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project document at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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